Manufacture and efficacy of Amrit Kalash

827. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that an Ayurvedic medicine 'Amrit Kalash' is being widely marketed and advertised in India;

(b) whether the efficacy of the medicine has been established after clinical trials in Government laboratories and hospitals; and

(c) what are the names of the companies which are manufacturing this medicine in India under different trade names indicating the retail price of each?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD). (a) to (c) There have been a few reports in a Section of the Indian Press about a herbal Food Supplement preparation named 'Amrit Kalash' prepared by Maharishi Ayurveda, Noida (UP), as a proprietary item. It has been claimed that the preparation is useful in certain heart ailments, cancer, etc. However, Scientific evidence is scanty.

Spread of Jaundice due to the supply of impure drinking water to South Delhi colonies

828. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the spread of jaundice in South Delhi colonies, especially in Vasant Kunj;

(b) whether the water supplied to these colonies have been tested and found fit for drinking purposes; if not, what are the reasons therefor and whether drinking water is not properly treated before supplying to Delhi residents; and

(c) whether Government propose to enquire into the matter and take steps to supply pure drinking water to stop further spread of the disease and also bring to book those responsible for supplying impure drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) A team from National Institute of Communicable Diseases visited South Delhi areas including Press Enclave Vasant Kunj and investigated the viral hepatitic cases reported from these areas through house to house survey. No evidence of increase in jaundice was noticed.

(b) and (c) According to the information received from Delhi Development Authority, samples of water from all the sources of water supply were tested in the last week of April '90 for bacteriological as well as chemical tests and the results were found to be satisfactory. A sample of water was also collected by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi staff in a surprise check from one of the underground tanks of Vasant Kunj on 29-6-90 which was found fit for human consumption.

Quality Control measures adopted by Municipal Corporation of Delhi

In order to provide safe drinking water supply to the residents of Delhi, strict quality control measures are adopted under the control of Director, Treatment & Quality Control Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking. The quality of water is checked at every stage of treatment right from the raw water stage upto storage in service reservoirs and also in the distribution system at the consumers end. Besides, water supplied from ranney wells and tube wells and from distribution system is also tested on regular basis to ensure that no contamination has taken place during transmission of water through municipal mains. Near about 100 water samples are lifted daily from the distribution system i.e. individual taps and public hydrants.

Use of packing materials by drug manufacturers

829. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some drug manufacturers use costly packaging materials which unnecessarily increase the costs

of medicines as reported in the Financial Express of the 3rd July, 1990; and

(b) is so, whether Government have issued any guidelines to such producers so as to protect the interests of consumers, if so what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some such instances have come to the notice of the Government. However, Government has fixed Ceilings on packing material charges. While fixing prices of formulations falling under price controlled Categories, either the packing material ceilings or the actuals, whichever is lower, is taken into account.

Non-commissioning of a project by ONGC in Champaran district of Bihar

830. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has abandoned a project for prospecting oil and gas in the Champaran district in Bihar; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in oil production at Bombay High and Heera Oilfields due to operational mismanagement

831. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank Consultants have held that the reservoirs of Bombay High and Heera Oilfields in the estern Offshore region are being mismanaged resulting in a sharp decline in oil production;

(b) if so, whether Government have inquired into the matter and fixed the responsibility for such lapses;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what steps are being taken to ensure better exploration of our oil resources; and

(e) what is the anticipated loss in oil resources on account of such lapses?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (e) Only a summary of the preliminary findings of the World Bank Report on Evaluation of India's oil and gas Production has been received. The detail findings are awaited. It would be premature to say if there has been any decline in oil production from reservoirs of Bombay High and Heera oilfields in Western Offshore region due to mismanagement. There have been conflicting reports and differences in technical opinions as to whether any permanent damage has been caused to Bombay High reservoirs.

Government has appointed a committee to go into all these issues on 26-4-1990 under the Chairmanship of Shri A. B. Das Gupta an eminent geo-scientist and a retired Chairman of Oil India. The following are the terms of reference of the Committee:—

To review the development and management of the Bombay High Reservoirs (Bombay High South and Bombay High North) and to specifically determine:

(i) whether the levels of withdrawal of crude oil from the reservoirs have been in line with the levels recommended by the developmental schemes prepared from time to time;

(ii) whether the deviations, if any, in the levels of production were justified according to the accepted industry practices, having due regard to the point of view of production and reservoir health;

(iii) whether alternative pressure maintenance schemes were examined and evaluated by ONGC over a period of time and if so, the results thereof;